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EVENING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 24TH MAY, 1949

MORNING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 25TH MAY, 1949

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - MARCH, 1949

EMPLOYMENT DURING MARCH QUARTER, 1949

During the three months ended March, 1949, the number of wage and salary earners in employment, (exclusive of rural workers and female private domestics) rose from 2,416,700 at the end of December, 1948 to 2,436,600 at the end of March, 1949. The number of male employees rose from 1,753,500 to 1,773,500 but there was a net fall of 100 females during the quarter, the total number employed at the end of March being 663,100. This however, was 3,900 higher than at the end of November, 1948. Compared with the increase during the March quarter, 1949, of 19,900 in the total number employed, the increase during the same period of 1948 was 5,900 when the general rising trend in employment levels was adversely affected by industrial disputes.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Of the total number in employment at the end of March, 1949 1,827,300 were in private employment, and 609,300 were employed by Commonwealth, State and Local Government Bodies and statutory authorities. Of Government employees 174,200 were employed by the Commonwealth, 373,600 by State and Semi-governmental authorities and 61,500 by Local Government Bodies.

STATE MOVEMENTS

The level of male employment increased in all states during the quarter but decreases in female employment were recorded in New South Wales and Western Australia. Total employment rose in all States. During the month of March there were increases in both male and female employment in all states.

CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Employment levels rose during the three months ended March in all industrial groups with the exception of Commerce, where there was a decline almost wholly due to a drop in the retail trade of 4,700 males and 7,100 females from the seasonal peak of December, 1948. This fall has been progressive throughout the quarter.

RISE IN MOST FACTORY CLASSES

Total employment rose during the quarter in each of the sixteen factory classes with the exception of Class 6, Textiles and Textile Goods which fell by 649 males and 173 females, and Class 15, Miscellaneous which fell by 121 males and 157 females.

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